



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Washington, MO National America in Bloom Awards Results Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): Honors for the prestigious 2012 America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 22.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom participation is helping participating towns achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

Washington, MO was judged on six criteria: overall impression, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Specially trained judges visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Additional competitors in this category were Arroyo Grande, CA; Madisonville, KY; Artesia, CA; and Holliston, MA.

Washington competed in the population category of 13,001 - 25,000, receiving a four bloom rating, and a special mention for its efforts in the area of heritage preservation.

The judges, Evelyn Alemanni and Barbara Vincentsen, commented, "Congratulations to Washington, MO on your second year of America in Bloom participation and for earning a prestigious FOUR bloom rating. You've come a long way! Through cooperation and collaboration with all sectors, Washington has been able to make amazing progress in an already wonderful city. This year's addition of strategic plans, update to the city's comprehensive plan, update to many city ordinances, and the development of parks maintenance standards demonstrates that the city has a vision of excellence for the years to come. Each year, AIB cities raise the bar in their many efforts and projects. This year is no exception and you are certainly among the leaders."

Registrations for the 2013 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2013.

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*America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.*

*America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.*

For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

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